

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/872,584

Examiner

Eric Hug

Applicant(s)

GUSTAFSON ET AL.

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on August 29, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed on August 29, 2003.

Claims 1-45 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-14 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose a shoe press comprising at least a belt that includes an embedded communications cable having sensors configured to respond to an operating parameter of the shoe press.

Claims 15-45 are allowable because they recite belts including at least an embedded communications cable extending within the belt thickness and having sensors configured to detect an operating parameter of a shoe press. The claimed belt is not considered to be obvious in view of the conveyor belts cited herein, as the sensors embedded within these prior art conveyor belts are constructed and configured differently. The sensors in the prior art belts detect an operating condition of the belt (such as its velocity or the presence of a rip) and are not suitable for detecting a condition of a shoe press (such as nip pressure). Also, the sensors in the prior art conveyor belts communicate information independently rather than being connected to one another through a communications cable.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Meschenmoser et al (US 6,306,261) in view of Moore (US 5,953,230) and Eagles et al (US 6,158,576) presented previously are persuasive. This rejection has been withdrawn in view of the arguments and amendments to the claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Whiteley (AU 2000 22299) discloses a longitudinal rip detector for a conveyor belt comprising an imbedded circuit disposed across the width of the belt.

Pramila et al (US 6,524,229) discloses a composite roll having a helical reinforcing optical fiber for sensing a load on the roll.

Hutchins (US 6,264,577) discloses a conveyor belt having an embedded integrated circuit transponder for detecting and communicating the condition of the belt during operation.

Moschel (US 5,592,875) discloses a press roll with a helical sensor disposed about the roll and beneath the roll cover for determining a nip pressure distribution.

Laitenen (US 5,383,371) discloses a device for measuring press nip force comprising a series of measurement detectors placed across the width of a press roll or press band.

Houck et al (US 4,646,912) discloses a conveyor belt with embedded antennae for detecting a break or rip in the belt.

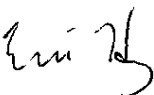
Kunkle (US 4,016,756) discloses a nip loading device comprising a series of spaced sensors disposed on a thin load sensing bar.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 703 308-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0651.


jeh


STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700